

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A fuel filter comprising

a filter housing,

at least one substantially **elongated** flat filter element contained in the housing, the at least one substantially flat filter element having a clean side and a dirty side which are both substantially planar and are situated essentially parallel to each other, **the clean side being disposed between a first elongated surface of the flat filter element and a first side of the housing, and the dirty side being disposed between a second elongated surface of the flat filter element and a second side of the housing, which second elongated surface opposes the first elongated surface,**

a fuel inlet delivering fuel to be filtered into the housing and a fuel outlet delivering filtered fuel from the housing, and

at least one wall encapsulating a **the clean side or the dirty** side of the filter element, **the at least one wall being disposed between that side of the filter element and the filter housing,** wherein the filter element and the at least one wall together constitute a filter insert which is inserted into the housing.

16. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter element comprises a folded filter material.

17. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 16, wherein the filter material is folded essentially into the shape of a block.

18. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter insert comprises an encapsulated clean side that is connected to the fuel outlet.

19. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 17, wherein the filter insert comprises an encapsulated clean side that is connected to the fuel outlet.

20. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter insert comprises an encapsulated dirty side that is connected to the fuel inlet.

21. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 17, wherein the filter insert comprises an encapsulated dirty side that is connected to the fuel inlet.

22. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the filter insert comprises an encapsulated dirty side that is connected to the fuel inlet.

23. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, comprising of two or more filter elements contained in the filter housing.

24. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 20, comprising of two or more filter elements contained in the filter housing.

25. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the fuel inlet or the fuel outlet is situated at an end of the filter housing.

26. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 25, wherein the fuel inlet and the fuel outlet are situated at opposite ends of the filter housing.

27. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, further comprising of a flow entry that at least reduces turbulence in the region of the side where the flow strikes the filter element.

28. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, further comprising a flow baffle provided in the fuel inlet.

29. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 20, further comprising a flow baffle provided in the fuel inlet.

30. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 29, wherein the flow baffle is inclined upward in relation to the flow direction.

31. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter housing comprises a block-shaped housing part and a cover that closes the housing part.

32. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 17, wherein the filter housing comprises a block-shaped housing part and a cover that closes the housing part.

33. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 31, wherein the housing part and the cover are connected to each other by means of a nondetachable connection.

34. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, further comprising a distribution stabilizer on the inlet side.